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Haig, Weinberger Top Choices in a Narrowing List for Cabinet

Yesterday's list of choices for the Reagan Cabinet focused on by-now-familiar names, including Alexander Haig for secretary of state, Caspar W. Weinberger for secretary of defense and William French Smith for attorney general.

The New York Daily News was farthest out on the limb, saying that President-elect Ronald Reagan had selected six persons — Haig, a former supreme commander of NATO; Weinberger, a longtime Reagan insider; Smith, Reagan's personal lawyer; Walter Wriston, chairman of Citicorp, as treasury secretary, William Casey, the president-elect's campaign director, as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Thomas Sowell, a conservative University of California economist and a black, as secretary of housing and urban development.

A top Reagan aide characterized the Daily News list as "50 percent wrong," but wouldn't say which half was right. The Washington Post contacted several of those on the list, who said that if they had been selected, it was news to them.

The Associated Press reported that Reagan had made offers to eight persons, but mentioned only four names as "likely" or "top picks" — Haig, Weinberger, Wriston and Casey — for the same posts the Daily News had listed.

EXCERPT